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Intellectual Property Law (Patents, Trademarks & Copyrights)*

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N.C.H.
1-15-07

Applicant: **Saksun, John, Sr.**
Serial No.: **09/427,986**
Filed: **October 27, 1997**
For: **GOLF CLUB HEAD AND METHOD
OF MAKING THE SAME**
Examiner: **E. Lee**
Group Art Unit: **1732**
Docket: **SAK007/JTN**
Date: **January 7, 2002**

RESPONSE

United States Patent and Trademark Office
The Commissioner of Patents
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia
U.S.A. 22202-3513

Dear Sirs:

This is in response to the Office Action dated 07/05/01, to which a response is due to be filed on or before October 5, 2001. A three month extension of time accompanies this response, which is therefore submitted as being timely.

Claims 27 to 32, drawn to a method of molding a golf club head, classified in class 29, subclass 527.1 are the subject of this examination. In the office action the Examiner rejected the claims, and as a result the applicant has made various modifications to the claims. Two claim sets are enclosed, one showing the changes made and the other is a clean copy. The old numbering has been retained. New claims 33 and 34 have been added.

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In the claims now presented the step of positioning an anchoring element in the

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mould, prior to moulding the body of the club head has been added to the broadest claim 27. Support for this amendment may be found in the description at page 10 lines 18 to 20, as well as at 28 to 31. This is also taught at page 12 lines 8 to 11. As the amendments do not add any new matter, it is respectfully submitted that they are proper and should be entered.

In addition claim 27 has been amended to overcome the indefinite rejection, in that it no longer abruptly ends in the word "and". As well the formerly recited steps (c) and (d) have been combined and generalized to a single front face forming step which is now step (d).

The present invention is directed to a method of forming a moulded golf club head. A moulded golf club head has a number of advantages as noted in the disclosure, including, a optimized distribution of weight in the volume of the head, to improve striking characteristics, a more consistent quality of product as compared to natural products such as wood and a reduced cost of manufacturing due to ease of production and lower costs of materials. Thus, a moulded club head is highly desirable and as is evident from the art of record a moulded club head has been long sought.

To date, a reliable moulded club head has not been successfully commercialized, believed in part due to the difficulty of reliably attaching a shaft to a moulded club head. The method of forming a golf club head according to the present invention as now claimed is directed to overcoming this attachment problem.

In the office action the examiner rejected claims 27 - 29 as being anticipated by Florian. In response, the applicant has added the step of positioning an anchoring element in the mould, prior to moulding the body of the club head. Further, the invention as now claimed, is directed to moulding a main body around the weights and said shaft anchoring element, including forming a shaft receiving bore in said main body including

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through the anchoring element. In contrast, in Florian, the rod member 40, which may be considered to be somewhat analogous to the anchoring element of the present invention, forms a solid extension out of the body, permitting the shaft to attach thereto outside of the club head body. As such, Florian does not teach forming a shaft receiving bore in the main body through the anchoring element as now claimed. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Florian does not anticipate the invention as now claimed.

The applicant further respectfully submits that nothing in Florian renders the present invention obvious either. More specifically, Florian teaches that the rod 40 is an important element during the moulding process, in that it acts to remove heat from the article being moulded during the moulding step (see Col. 3, lines 60 to 67). As such a person skilled in the art would not be led to the applicant's invention, in which the anchoring element is located within the mould, and where the shaft receiving bore is formed through the anchoring element, because to do so would remove the heat sink properties of the rod 40, which are taught as being necessary in Florian to avoid cracking of the plastic during setting and cooling. As such Florian teaches directly away from the applicant's invention as now claimed.

The applicant has carefully reviewed the other art of record in this application and notes that Rigel, 5,429,358 also teaches a form of anchoring element present in the final assembled club head. However, the method of making the club head is completely different. Rigel teaches forming a shaft in the club head during the moulding step and then inserting the anchoring element afterwards. This is evident from the teaching of Rigel that the intermediate ring 10 be glued into the club head (see Col. 4 line 60 - first adhesive layer 13). The teaching of gluing-in the somewhat analogous intermediate ring 10 is directly opposite to what the applicant now claims, since the applicant's invention is restricted to one in which the anchoring element is placed in the mould first, then the club head is moulded around the weights and anchoring elements.

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